IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing units of encrypted information and providing conditional access to the units, using a secure device ~~(14)~~ capable of selectively enabling decryption of said units, the method comprising

- distributing a stream comprising the units of information successively, each linked to a respective time-stamp;

- sending an entitlement management message to the secure device ~~(14)~~, the entitlement message including a specification of a range ~~(21, 22)~~ of time-stamp values and entitling the secure device ~~(14)~~ to enable decryption of units of information that are linked to time-stamps with values in that range ~~(21, 22)~~, wherein the range ~~(21, 22)~~ has a starting point ~~(21)~~ substantially prior to a time value ~~(24)~~ of the time stamps distributed concurrent the entitlement message.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, wherein the stream is distributed to a plurality of subscribers, each with an own secure device ~~(14)~~ and wherein the entitlement management message is one of a plurality of respective entitlement management messages, each sent receivable for the secure device ~~(14)~~ of a respective one of the subscribers, each entitlement management message including a specification of a respective range of time-stamp values ~~(21, 22)~~, the method comprising

- receiving subscriber dependent subscription information;

- setting a distance of said starting point ~~(21)~~ to said time value in each of the respective ranges ~~(21, 22)~~ according to a respective distance value and selecting each respective distance value from a set of two or more distance values, dependent on the subscription information for the subscriber for whose secure device ~~(14)~~ the entitlement management message is receivable.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, wherein the entitlement management message is one of a series of successive ~~ones~~ entitlement management messages, each specifying its own range ~~(21, 22)~~ so that said range slides with time so that the starting point ~~substantially~~ has a time independent distance to said time value ~~(24)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, wherein the secure device ~~(14)~~ maintains and updates a current time value corresponding to the time values of the time stamps as they are distributed as a function of time, the secure device ~~(14)~~ adjusting said starting point to a time independent distance before the current time value, the secure device ~~(14)~~ deriving the time independent distance from said one of the entitlement management unit ~~(24)~~ at least for a series of successive current time values.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, wherein the range ~~(21, 22)~~ ends substantially before the time value of the time stamps distributed concurrent with said one of the entitlement messages.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 2, the subscription information comprising, for one of the subscribers, a selection of a further range ~~(30, 32)~~ ending substantially prior to the time value ~~(24)~~ of the time stamps distributed at a time of receiving said selection, the method comprising sending a further entitlement management message in addition to said entitlement messages, the further entitlement management specifying the further range ~~(30, 32)~~ and entitling the secure device ~~(14)~~ to enable decryption of units of information that are linked to time-stamps with values in that further range ~~(30, 32)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) An information distribution system that provides conditional access to units of encrypted information, the system comprising:

- an information distribution device ~~(10)~~ arranged to distribute a stream of successive units of encrypted information, each linked to a respective time-stamp;

- at least one information receiving device ~~(12, 19)~~ arranged to receive the stream;

- a secure device ~~(14)~~ coupled to the at least one information receiving device ~~(12, 19)~~, for selectively enabling decryption of the units under control of an entitlement management message including a specification of a range ~~(21, 22)~~ of time-stamp values and entitling the secure device ~~(14)~~ to enable decryption of units of information that are linked to time-stamps with values in that range ~~(21, 22)~~;

- the information distribution device ~~(10)~~ being arranged to send the entitlement message so that the range ~~(21, 22)~~ has a starting point substantially prior to a time value ~~(24)~~ of the time stamps distributed concurrent with the entitlement message.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to Claim 7, the system comprising a plurality of secure devices ~~(14, in 19)~~, each for a respective subscriber, wherein the entitlement management message is one of a plurality of respective entitlement management messages, each sent receivable for a respective one of the secure devices ~~(14, in 19)~~, each of the entitlement management messages including a specification of a respective range of time-stamp values ~~(21, 22)~~, and wherein the information distribution device ~~(10)~~ has

- an input for receiving subscriber dependent subscription information;

- means ~~(11)~~ for setting a distance of said starting point to said time value in each of the respective ranges according to a respective distance value, the means ~~(11)~~ selecting each respective distance value from a set of two or more distance values, dependent on the subscription information for the subscriber for whose secure device the entitlement management message is receivable.

9. (Currently Amended) A secure device ~~(12)~~ for use in an information distribution system that provides conditional access to a stream of information units linked to time stamps, the secure device comprising:

- an input for receiving entitlement management messages;

- a memory ~~(144)~~ for maintaining a current time count;

- a management unit ~~(142)~~ for selectively enabling decryption of the information units under control of the entitlement management messages, the management unit ~~(142)~~ being arranged to implement one of the entitlement management messages that includes a specification of a range of time-stamp values linked to units of information, for which the secure device ~~(14)~~ has to enable decryption, wherein the extending substantially prior to the current time count.

10. (Currently Amended) An information distribution device ~~(10, 11)~~ arranged to distribute a stream of successive units of encrypted information to a secure device ~~(14)~~, each unit linked to a respective time-stamp, the device comprising: ~~having~~

- a transmitting unit ~~(10)~~ for transmitting an entitlement management message including a specification of a range ~~(21, 22)~~ of time-stamp values and entitling the secure device ~~(14)~~ to enable decryption of units of information that are linked to time-stamps with values in that range ~~(21, 22)~~ so that the range has a starting point ~~(21)~~ substantially prior to a time value ~~(24)~~ of the time stamps distributed concurrent with the entitlement message.

11 (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information distribution device according to Claim 10, arranged to distribute the stream to a plurality of subscribers, each having a respective secure device, the entitlement management message being one of a plurality of entitlement management messages for reception by respective ones of the secure devices, each entitlement management message specifying a respective range of time-stamp values, the device comprising: ~~having~~

- an input for receiving subscriber dependent subscription information;

- means ~~(11)~~ for setting a distance of said starting point to said time value in each of the respective ranges according to a respective distance value, the means ~~(11)~~ selecting each respective distance value from a set of two or more distance values, dependent on the subscription information for the subscriber for whose secure device ~~(14)~~ the entitlement management message is receivable.

12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein sending an entitlement management message includes entitling the secure device to enable decryption of units of information that are linked to time-stamps with values with the starting point at least sufficiently far into the past to contain at least a television program or a meaningful part of such a program prior to the time value of the time stamps distributed concurrent the entitlement message.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the starting point is at least one or more hours prior to the time value of the time stamps.

14. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the starting point is at least one day prior to the time value of the time stamps.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein sending an entitlement management message includes entitling the secure device to enable decryption of units of information that are linked to time-stamps with values with the starting point at least sufficiently far into the past to contain at least a television program and at least one week prior to the time value of the time stamps distributed concurrent the entitlement message.